

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

5        1. An indication unit for use with a portable wireless device, the indication unit comprising:

         a proximity detector for detecting when a user has returned to the vicinity of the portable wireless device and for generating a signal indicating that the user has returned;

         a user notification unit for providing a message indication to a user; and

10       a controller responsive to receipt of said signal for activating said user notification unit to notify a user that a message arrived while said user was not in the vicinity of the portable wireless device.

         2. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the portable wireless device is a telephone.

15       3. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the portable wireless device is a personal digital assistant.

         4. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the portable wireless device is a short  
20       message service (SMS) device.

         5. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the portable wireless device is a pager.

6. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the proximity detector comprises a BLUETOOTH™-enabled transceiver for establishing a communication channel with another BLUETOOTH™-equipped device.

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7. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the proximity detector comprises a motion sensor for sensing when said portable wireless device has been moved from a stationary position.

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8. The indication unit of claim 7, wherein the motion sensor utilizes a global positioning system (GPS) receiver to detect motion.

9. The indication unit of claim 8, wherein the portable wireless device detects motion by sensing changes in its own position.

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10. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the portable wireless device comprises a GPS receiver for receiving GPS location information and a receiver for receiving GPS location information transmitted to said portable wireless device from the user.

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11. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the proximity detector comprises a voice recognition unit for recognizing the user's voice when the user has returned to the vicinity of the portable device.

12. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the user notification unit comprises a message indicator for informing the user of a pending message.

5 13. The indication unit of claim 12, wherein the portable wireless device is a telephone and the pending message is a voice mail.

14. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the indication provided to the user comprises an audible indication.

10 15. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein the indication provided to the user comprises a vibration of the portable wireless device.

15 16. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein said message comprises an appointment reminder.

17. The indication unit of claim 1, wherein said indication unit is located on an integrated circuit chip.

20 18. A portable wireless device comprising:  
an indication unit, said indication unit comprising:

a proximity detector for detecting when a user has returned to the vicinity of the portable wireless device and for generating a signal indicating that the user has returned;

a user notification unit for providing a message indication to a user; and

5 a controller responsive to receipt of said signal for activating said user notification unit to notify a user that a message arrived while said user was not in the vicinity of the portable wireless device.

10 19. The device of claim 18, wherein the proximity detector comprises a BLUETOOTH™-enabled transceiver for establishing a communication channel with another BLUETOOTH™-equipped device associated with said user.

20. The device of claim 18, wherein the proximity detector comprises a motion sensor for sensing when said portable wireless device has been moved from a stationary position.

15 21. The device of claim 20, wherein the motion sensor utilizes a global positioning system (GPS) receiver to detect motion.

20 22. The device of claim 21, wherein the device detects motion by sensing changes in its own position.

23. The device of claim 21, wherein the device comprises a GPS receiver for receiving GPS location information and a receiver for receiving GPS location information transmitted to said device from the user.

5        24. The device of claim 18, wherein the proximity detector comprises a voice recognition unit for recognizing the user's voice when the user has returned to the vicinity of the portable device.

10       25. The device of claim 18, wherein the user notification unit comprises a message indicator for informing the user of a pending message.

15       26. The device of claim 25, wherein the device is a telephone and the pending message is a voice mail.

20       27. The device of claim 18, wherein the indication provided to the user comprises an audible indication.

28. The device of claim 18, wherein the indication provided to the user comprises a vibration of the device.

29. The device of claim 18, wherein said portable wireless device comprises a wireless telephone.

30. The device of claim 18, wherein said portable wireless device comprises a personal digital assistant.

5        31. The device of claim 18, wherein said portable wireless device comprises a short message service (SMS) device.

32. The device of claim 18, wherein said portable wireless device comprises a pager.

10       33. The device of claim 18, wherein said message comprises an appointment reminder.

34. The device of claim 18, wherein said indication unit is provided on an integrated circuit chip.

15       35. The device of claim 18, wherein said proximity detector and said user notification unit are provided on an integrated circuit chip.

36. A method for operating a portable wireless device, the method comprising:

detecting when a user has returned to the vicinity of said portable wireless device; and

20       notifying the user that a message had occurred while the user was not in the vicinity of the portable wireless device.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said act of detecting comprises establishing a BLUETOOTH™ communication channel between said portable wireless device and with a user-carried BLUETOOTH™ device.

5 38. The method of claim 36, wherein said act of detecting comprises sensing that said portable wireless device has been moved from a stationary position.

10 39. The method of claim 38, wherein said act of sensing comprises utilizing a global positioning system (GPS) receiver to detect changes in the portable wireless device's position.

15 40. The method of claim 39, further comprising comparing GPS location information of the portable wireless device with GPS location information transmitted to said portable wireless device from the user.

41. The method of claim 36, wherein said act of detecting comprises detecting an audio output from said user.

20 42. The method of claim 36, wherein said act of notifying comprises providing the user with a pending message indication.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein said act of providing comprises providing the user with an audible indication.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein said act of providing comprises providing the  
5 user with a vibration indication.